(b) what percentage of work has been completed so far; and

(c) how many people have so far been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the information furnished by the Government of West Bengal, an expenditure of Rs. 3486.25 lakhs has been incurred so far on Neora-Khola drinking water project. This amount includes operation and maintenance costs of Rs. 172.76 lakhs during the year 1992-93 to 1996-97. From 1997-98, fund for operation and maintenance is being provided separately.

(b) Neora-Khola drinking water project has been commissioned without construction of two ground reservoirs. Cost-wise, 90% of the works may be said to be completed.

(c) The scheme involves conveyance of water over more than 80 K.M. stretch of pipeline in most difficult landslide prone hilly terrain. Presently, 12.83 lakh gallons of water is being received from Neora-Khola and Dhaulakhola Sources against a design of 15 lakh gallons per day. The scheme is to provide seven lakh gallons of water per day to the Army establishment at Durbrinda, Algarahand and Pedong. Presently, however, it is being possible to supply 1.45 lakh gallons of water per day to the Army establishment-mainly due to unauthorised tapping. To avoid this, fixed time supply to rural enroute population and a dedicated pipeline for the Army have been thought of.

The rest of the water is being provided to Kalimpong Municipality to serve the people of Kalimpong town. The population of Kalimpong Municipality is 38,787 as per 1991 census.

Performance of Centrally-sponsored schemes in Madhya Pradesh

†3512. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise actual and financial performance of the Centrally-sponsored scheme like Indira Awas Yojana, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, etc. during the last three years in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) to what extent the said target has been achieved;

(c) whether the said target could not be achieved

(d) the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the intensive efforts made by Government for development of negelected districts?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected.

National Handloom Credit Fund

†3513. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand has been made to Government for establishing a separate National Handloom Credit Fund to provide economic assistance to handloom industry;

(b) if so, the details of the demand;

(c) whether Government have so far taken decision in respect of the demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) No request has been made to the Government for setting up a National Handloom Credit fund. However, the High Powered Committee set up by Government of India under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Mira Seth, Member, Planning Commission, had recommended in its report in December, 1996 for creation of National Handloom Credit Fund for covering weavers outside the cooperative fold. The recommendation was made when NABARD's refinance facility was not available to the Weavers outside the Cooperative fold. This mater was taken up with NABARD and they have now extended this facility to State Handloom Corporations for covering weavers outside the cooperative fold from the year 1997-98.

Modernising textile industry

3514. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The status of textile industry today in term of production, employment, exports and foreign exchange earnings; and

(b) the steps being taken to modernise textile industry?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.